

ARTICLE APPEARED  
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### ***Baker Offering Regrets In Press Secrecy Sweep***

WASHINGTON, May 14 (UPI) — The Senate Republican leader, Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee, says he regrets any inconvenience to the press when the Senate Press Gallery was cleared May 5 for a secret intelligence briefing.

In a letter to Ronald E. Cohen, Washington news editor of United Press International, Senator Baker said Thursday that "the level of briefing that was conducted had never been held in the chamber in the past," and added, "That is the primary reason for the extra measures that were required by the sergeant-at-arms's office."

In the preparations by the Capitol police and agents of the Defense Intelligence Agency, reporters were told to leave the gallery, articles they wrote were erased from their computer terminals and telephones belonging to news agencies were ripped from the wall.

Mr. Cohen complained to Senator Baker that the authorities had subverted First Amendment rights. Senator Baker answered, "While I do not anticipate that such action will be required again in the near future, I think we all learned from this experience."